
Safety & Training Committee

Minutes of the virtual meeting held by Microsoft Teams on
Thursday 10 February 2022 at 7pm

Present:	Jeff Montgomery	-	Chair STC/STO
	Iain Anderson	-	Skydive St Andrews
	Dylan Bartle	-	JSPC(W)
	Alex Busby-Hicks (until item 9)	-	Skydive Tilstock / Council
	Stacey Canning	-	APA
	Bryn Chaffe	-	Skyhigh Skydiving
	Andy Clark	-	Skydive Ireland (Formerly Wild Geese)
	Reg Green	-	Pilgrims
	Stuart Meacock	-	Hinton Skydiving
	Noel Purcell	-	Skydive Hibaldstow
	Pete Sizer	-	Chair Riggers' Subcommittee / Headcorn
	Jason Thompson	-	Beccles Skydivers
	Jason Webster	-	JSPW(N)
	Martin White	-	Cyprus
	Paul Yeoman	-	Black Knights
Apologies for Absence:	Sara Orton	-	Skydive GB
	Mike Carruthers	-	Skydive North West
	Paul Floyd	-	Skydiving London
	Gary Small	-	Skydive Chatteris
In attendance:	Mark Bayada	-	Council
	Tony Butler	-	Chief Operating Officer
	Dr John Carter	-	British Skydiving Medical Adviser
	Trudy Kemp	-	Assistant to COO/STO/Secretary
	Craig Poxon	-	Chair - British Skydiving
	Joanne Shaw	-	Independent Director
Observers:	Stuart Albon, James Bottomley, Neal Fitzpatrick, Andy Guest, Rudy McClenaghan, Mike Patchett, Mike Rust, Billy Steele,		

ITEM MINUTE

1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed all members and guests to the 1st STC Meeting of 2022. He asked those who wished to speak to make him aware by using the wave icon or chat feature on Teams, or if he did not acknowledge those, to call out. He made a roll call of Chief Instructors as the voting members present, and then outlined the voting procedure.

The Chair stated that the meeting would be recorded to assist with preparation of the minutes, after which the recording would be deleted.

2. DECLARATIONS OF ANY CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Chair asked that any voting member with a personal, financial or material interest in business on the agenda should declare that interest at the appropriate item.

3. MINUTES OF THE STC MEETING OF 11 NOVEMBER 2021

It was proposed by Martin White, seconded by Jason Webster that the Minutes of the meeting on 11 November 2021 be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE STC MEETING OF 11 NOVEMBER 2021

Page 2. Item 4 - Matters Arising. The Chair reported that the Board of Inquiry investigation is still ongoing. He stated that because of the various other authorities investigating, it is taking time for the Board to obtain the information it requires to complete its Inquiry.

Page 5. Item 6 - Coaching Structure Working Group - Update. The Chair reported that details of the proposed changes to some of the Grading System coaches requirements had been circulated with the agenda. He stated that Forms 134 (A through to H) would need updating pending the outcome of the decision on this proposal.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Noel Purcell, seconded by Pete Sizer that the proposed changes to the Grading System be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

5. RIGGERS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING OF 28 JANUARY 2022

The Chair reported that the Minutes of the Riggers' Subcommittee meeting of 28 January, held on the Industry Day had been added to the STC Sharepoint folder last week.

There were no questions raised relating to the Minutes, or the proposed Operations Manual amendments relating to Sections 6 and 14, and the change to the Rigging Technical Manual:

Proposed that SECTION 6 (EQUIPMENT), Para 8 (Parachute Packing), Sub-Para 8.3.1. be changed to read:

8.3.1. Reserve parachutes may only be inspected and packed by current Advanced Packers (AP).

It was proposed by Andy Clark, seconded by Stuart Meacock that the above amendment to the British Skydiving Operations Manual be accepted.

For: 15 (incl 1 x proxy)

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Carried Unanimously

Proposed that the Rigging Technical Manual should be updated on page 10 to read:

4. Since October 2009, all riggers with 'all types' on their packing certificates were issued with AP ratings, subsequently all reserve packing may only be conducted by holders of AP ratings.

It was proposed by Pete Sizer, seconded by Stuart Meacock that the above amendment to the British Skydiving Rigging Technical Manual be accepted.

For: 16 (incl 2 x proxy)

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Carried Unanimously

Proposed that SECTION 14 (RIGGING). Add new Paragraph 9 (NON-BRITISH SKYDIVING RIGGERS AND RESERVE PACKERS). To read:

9. NON-BRITISH SKYDIVING RIGGERS AND RESERVE PACKERS

Non British Skydiving rated Reserve Packers or Riggers wishing to practice in the UK must be full members of British Skydiving, understand English adequately, hold a British Skydiving Packing Certificate and have a written recommendation from a British Skydiving qualified Rigger prior to assessment on the appropriate course.

- 9.1.** To gain a British Skydiving Advanced Packer (AP) rating the candidate must hold a current Reserve Packing rating acceptable to the skydiving governing organisation of the country where the rating was obtained and show evidence of at least 20 reserve repacks, before attending an AP examination course, during which the Advanced Rigger (AR) or Rigger Examiner (RE) conducting the course will ensure that all aspects of the AP syllabus are covered.
- 9.2.** To gain a British Skydiving Rigger rating the candidate must hold a current Rigger rating acceptable to the skydiving governing organisation of the country where the rating was obtained and show evidence of at least 200 hours of logged rigging work. They must first obtain suitable British Skydiving AP ratings prior to attending a British Skydiving Rigger Examination Course, during which their ability to fulfil the syllabus will be assessed by the REs.
- 9.3.** Following successful completion of the above the candidate will be awarded the relevant British Skydiving rating.

Note: Previous Para 9, becomes Para 10

It was proposed by Noel Purcell, seconded by Pete Sizer that the above amendment to the British Skydiving Operations Manual be accepted.

For: 15 (incl 1 x proxy)

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

Carried Unanimously

It was proposed by Pete Sizer, seconded by Andy Clark that the Minutes of the Riggers' Sub-Committee meeting of the 28 January 2022 be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

6. RIGGING MATTERS

The Chair reported that during the Tandem & Rigging Safety Day, which was held as part of the 2022 Expo weekend, United Parachute Technologies (UPT) gave several seminars on the day and provided those present with information about the release of the Sigma 2 Reserve, which is also paired with a new deployment bag, referred to as the TB free-bag, which better contains the canopy and reserve lines.

The Chair stated that UPT informed the members present that the VR360 Tandem reserve is no longer being manufactured, and only the Sigma Reserve (SR) canopy is available to purchase moving forward. The new Sigma 2 Reserve comes in two sizes SR340 and SR370

Also, the TB Tandem free-bag will become a standard replacement part once UPT exhausts their stock of the old style Tandem free-bag. The new TB free-bag is compatible with both the VR360 and the new SR canopies, but is a requirement for use if purchasing a new SR canopy. INSTRUCT – 066 REV 0

The new Sigma 2 reserves use 'Rapide' links. Therefore, reserve risers that had used separable (L bar) connector links need to be modified in accordance with INSTRUCT – 062 REV.0 (Photos below)

British Skydiving recognises that the new free-bag is part of the container system and therefore does not require any clearance for the new component part, as it is a manufacturers modification.



7. PILOTS' SPECIALIST INTEREST GROUP (SIG) MEETING OF 29 JANUARY 2022

The Chair reported that the Notes from the Pilots' SIG Meeting of the 29 January 2022 had been added to the STC Sharepoint folder last week. He stated that the notes were for information only, unless STC members had any questions. There were no actions for STC to consider within the notes. There were no questions raised by those present concerning the Pilot's SIG Meeting.

8. INCIDENT/INJURY REPORTS – RÉSUMÉ

The Chair reported that a résumé of incidents had been included with the Agenda:

- a. Two injury reports have been received for Student Skydivers. One male and one female. Both were static line first jump student jumpers. The first did not complete the flare, her toes were pointed down for landing and she sustained an ankle injury. The second student reported the following day of a stiff neck.
- b. Three reports of injuries to 'A' Licensed skydivers or above. 2 males and 1 female. One jumper, with 44 jumps, landed with feet apart, breaking her ankle. Another with 774 jumps landed on a night jump, flared late, flipped onto head and was unconscious for 4-5 minutes. Went to hospital, had small lacerations to face and was released the same evening with no issues. The third was a skydiver with 1,245 jumps, who had a malfunction and landed under his reserve in a mound of mud/manure and twisted his ankle.
- c. There have been 4 malfunction/deployment problem reports received for licensed skydivers. All males. One jumper with 31 descents commenced the deployment sequence at around 5,000ft, felt a jolt as he deployed, realised that the main had been cutaway and his reserve had deployed. It appears that the cutaway handle had been dislodge at some stage. Two skydivers, one with 533 jumps, the other with 846 jumps, experienced twists on deployment and carried out their reserve drills. The last was a wingsuit jumper, with 1,296 jumps who also had twists.
- d. There have been 3 Tandem injury reports received. 2 males and 1 female. One Tandem Student landed in a seated position resulting in a hairline compression fracture to his lower back. Another student dislocated her shoulder on opening. The student had not declared a previous shoulder injury. The third student felt unwell half an hour after landing. It was later confirmed that he suffered from vertigo.

- e. Since the last STC meeting there have been 3 Tandem Malfunction/Deployment problem reports received. All involving the same Tandem Instructor. Since July 2021, the Tandem Instructor has been involved in three Tandem cutaways:

23-08-21. Twists in the rigging lines (not packed by the instructor). 91 Tandems in the previous 3 months.

14-11-21. Twists in the rigging lines (not packed by the instructor). 124 Tandems in the previous 3 months.

14-11-21. A step through in the rigging lines, (not packed by the instructor). 127 Tandems in the previous 3 months. A control check was carried out and the TI carried out his emergency procedures.

09-01-22. Twists in the rigging lines (not packed by the instructor). 41 Tandems in the previous 3 months.

On the most recent occasion the video footage from the jump has been reviewed by the STO and confirmed that the TI deployed on heading with no involuntary turning. The footage also showed evidence of line dump during the deployment sequence.

Since 2008 the TI's ratio is a total of 9 incidents in approximately 1,200 jumps. This gives a rate of about 1 in 130 jumps or a lifetime average of about 7.6 per 1,000 jumps, or 5 in the last 181 jumps, or 4 in the last 102 jumps, or 3 in the last 15 jumps. His incident rate has been persistently much higher than the average and appears to be rising. While anyone can have an unfortunate random cluster of incidents over a small number of jumps, this is a recurrent persistent rate spread over 1,200 jumps.

The STO had written to the Chief Instructor and requested that the TI is placed under an assessment review with suggestions for consideration.

The Chair reported that those suggestions, together with the CI's remarks, had been included in the STC Sharepoint folder at the end of last week.

- f. One report has been received of an AAD fire. A jumper carrying out a coached back-flying jump, went to deploy at 3,500ft and was unable to locate the toggle, carried out his reserve drills and the AAD fired at about the same time.
- g. One 'off-landing' report has been received. A jumper with 1,077 jumps experienced twists and was unable to make it back to the PLA.
- h. Two reports have been received of items coming off on exit from the aircraft. A shoe and a camera.

Additional Incident Reports

The Chair reported that since the Agenda was sent out, only one further incident report has been received. This involved an A licence skydiver with 40 descents, who experienced either a slow deployment or streamer malfunction and successfully carried out his reserve drills.

9. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO BRITISH SKYDIVING OPERATIONS MANUAL

The Chair reported that a proposal from Mark Bayada had been included with the agenda regarding the requirements for Formation Skydiving Grade 1 (FS1).

Mark Bayada's paper had stated that he believes that the 'Grading System enhances safety and training in many cases but can also be a barrier to many jumpers at the early stages of their skydiving careers. Certain grades have become outdated and there is little consistency across all disciplines.

To gain FS1, the skydiver has to complete several coached jumps and then complete a minimum of one 4-way which can be not only a great expense but also very difficult to find

other skydivers who are competent and willing to help. They must do this before they can jump with other jumpers of a similar level of experience.

That same jumper, if learning to Freely can carry out a number of coached jumps to gain FF1 but does not need to complete any descents with skydivers other than the coach. They can then be cleared to jump with other skydivers of a similar level of experience without ever having been part of bigger formations with a coach, in a discipline that it could be argued carries much more risk.

The FF1 qualification has now been in use for a number of years without major incident. This would suggest that the FS1 qualification is outdated and that it is unreasonable to insist that jumpers need FS1 before they can carry out any skydives in small groups with other low experience skydivers.'

Mark's paper went on to state that STC is responsible for ensuring that British Skydiving's training system is safe but also a constructive and not just a number of hurdles to be overcome with negligible extra reduction of risk.

During the Chair of Council's recent online Q and A, it was raised that many skydivers are having difficulty completing the 3 and 4-way descent to gain FS1. This is at a crucial stage of their jumping careers and may well be the final straw for many when deciding whether to remain in the sport.'

Mark's proposal was that FS1 be amended to remove the requirement for carrying out a 4-way qualifying jump. Also, that for all other Grading disciplines (FF, TR & SS), where currently the jumper must have completed the current FS1 requirements other than the 4-way element, be changed to 'must be qualified FS1'.

Mark Bayada also provided further background information into his request and was able to answer a number of questions raised by those present.

A considerable amount of discussion ensued, and some concern was expressed by several CIs present that to remove the requirements regarding the completion of four points of 4-way FS to gain FS1, did nothing to improve standards of skydiving, i.e. a watering down of the rules.

Mark Bayada stated that he did not believe that this would lower the standards, as CIs can still monitor the standards to ensure that FS1 qualified jumpers are safe to jump in larger groups.

Some CIs indicated that although they supported the proposal, they would like to see a qualification for an FS2 where currently FS1 sits. The COO pointed out that any CI could put a proposal to STC for an FS2 qualification at a future STC meeting.

There was also some concern expressed that this was also going against what the Coaching Structure WG were trying to achieve in terms of raising the standard of coaches.

Mark Bayada stated that he believed that the standard of coaches should stay the same. He was just trying to make the grading requirements more consistent across the board in all disciplines.

CIs present also felt that it should be made clear that the current FF1 requirements for jumping initially in small groups of 2-3 should also be included as part of the FS1.

Mark Bayada was also able to clarify that once FS1 has been obtained, the skydiver must not make FS descents with others without CI approval, (a logbook endorsement will suffice) and initially only small groups (e.g. 2-3 ways), which would be incorporated into the Operations Manual amendments.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Bryn Chaffe, seconded by Stuart Meacock that the Operations Manual be amended as per Mark's proposal (see amendments below).

For: 10

Against: 2

Abstentions: 1 (Reg Green)

Carried

SECTION 2 (DESIGNATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF SKYDIVERS), Paragraph 6 (The Grading System), Sub-Para 6.3. (Formation Skydiving). Delete: 6.3.1 f.

SECTION 2 (DESIGNATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF SKYDIVERS), Paragraph 6 (The Grading System), Sub-Para 6.3. (Formation Skydiving). Replace previous sub-paras 6.3.2. – 6.3.4. with new sub-paras. To read:

- 6.3.2. Prior to obtaining FS1, an 'A' Licence skydiver may make 2-way jumps, when not carrying out coaching jumps, provided they have received a full safety brief and the other skydiver is at least a 'C' Licence FS1 skydiver or equivalent, approved by the CI.
- 6.3.3. Once FS1 has been obtained, the skydiver must not make FS descents with others without CI approval, (a logbook endorsement will suffice) and initially only small groups (e.g. 2-3 ways).
- 6.3.4. Training programmes other than those contained in the British Skydiving Formation Skydiving (FS) Manuals are acceptable for training for FS1, provided all the requirements of sub-para 6.3.1. (above) are met.

SECTION 2 (DESIGNATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF SKYDIVERS), Paragraph 6 (The Grading System), Sub-Para 6.6. (Freestyle/Freeflying). Delete: 6.6.1 (including a-e). New 6.6.1. to read:

- 6.6.1. To obtain Grade 1 in Freestyle/Freeflying (FF1) the skydiver must be qualified FS1.

SECTION 2 (DESIGNATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF SKYDIVERS), Paragraph 6 (The Grading System), Sub-Para 6.7. (Skysurfing). Delete: 6.7.1 (including a-i). New 6.7.1. to read:

- 6.7.1. To obtain Grade 1 in Skysurfing (SS1) the skydiver must first be a 'C' Licence holder and be qualified FS1 And demonstrate the ability to:
 - a. Maintain a 'stand up' position for 15 consecutive seconds.
 - b. Perform a controlled 360 degree turn in both directions whilst in a 'stand up' position.
 - c. Perform a straight body position forward and backward loop starting and returning back to a 'stand up' position.
 - d. Return back to a stable (belly to earth) position within 3-5 seconds from a fast side or back spin of at least 2 revolutions per second.

SECTION 2 (DESIGNATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF SKYDIVERS), Paragraph 6 (The Grading System), Sub-Para 6.9. (Tracking). Delete: 6.9.1 (including a-e). New 6.9.1. to read:

- 6.9.1. To obtain Grade 1 in Tracking (TR1) the skydiver must be qualified FS1.

10. PERMISSIONS

- a. Two Permission requests had been received from Andy Clark requesting that the restrictions at both Wild Geese's (Skydive Ireland's) PLAs be amended. The first, at Killkeegan, Wild Geese's (Skydive Ireland's) split DZ, is to change from one student per pass to two. Andy Clark provided background information regarding his request to those present.

The proposal was that the following change be permitted (initially as a 12-month trial then reporting back to STC with a view to it becoming permanent): Up to 2 Solo students can be dispatched per pass with the following conditions being met:

- i. Student talk-down must be conducted by a minimum of a CSI/AFFI.
- ii. Students will wear radios until they have qualified as 'A' licence skydivers.

- iii. Students must receive training on crosswind & downwind landings – to reduce the possibility of injury if this type of landing results after carrying out an avoidance manoeuvre – This is to be incorporated into the Solo Student lesson plans.
- iv. If solo students are on the first lift of the day, then a WDI is to be used.

The Chair reported that maps and photographs of both PLAs had been included with the proposals.

The COO reported that Wild Geese had recently changed its name to Skydive Ireland and this would be noted in the requests. He stated that it was important that these requests were conducted on a trial basis prior to the data being presented to STC.

Mike Rust stated that he was in support of this request having worked as CI at Wild Geese recently.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Jason Thompson, seconded by Iain Anderson that the above request be accepted.

For: 11 Against: 0 Abstentions: 3 (Andy Clark, Stuart Meacock, Gary Small (proxy))

Carried

- b. The second proposal is for Wild Geese's (Skydive Ireland's) PLA. Andy Clark's paper had also included full details of the request.

Andy Clark had proposed the following change to the Movenis restrictions (initially as a 12-month trial then reporting back to STC with a view to it becoming permanent): Solo students can make descents into Movenis PLA on completion of a minimum of 5 descents with the following conditions being met:

- i. Students must have CI approval (logbook endorsement will suffice), having displayed reasonable canopy handling skills with minimum talk down input at the Killykegan (student) PLA.
- ii. Students must receive the current British Skydiving Additional Canopy Training (ACT) brief prior to carrying out descents into Movenis PLA delivered by an appropriately qualified instructor.
- iii. Students must receive training on crosswind and downwind landings – to reduce the possibility of injury if this type of landing results whilst avoiding a hazard – This is to be incorporated into the solo student lesson plans & the Movenis PLA ACT brief.
- iv. Students, as part of Movenis PLA daily student refresher training, are to receive instruction on identifying powerlines and using the full length of the primary landing area for their final into wind leg of their landing pattern when the wind is light, and the direction is from approximately 250-270°.
- v. Students will wear radios until they have qualified as 'A' licence skydivers.
- vi. Students will have a dedicated talkdown for their first two descents into Movenis PLA, thereafter DZ Controller may act as talkdown but only when DZ Controller is a minimum of a CSI/AFFI. This may be CSBI/AFFBI if they have sufficient talk down experience and have the CI's approval (logbook endorsement will suffice).
- vii. No more than 1 category student per pass.
- viii. Clearance for the aircraft to land is only to be given if DZ Controller is satisfied that solo students have landed or appear to still be higher than 500ft.
- ix. If solo students are on the first lift of the day, then a WDI is to be used.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Bryn Chaffe, seconded by Dylan Bartle that the above request be accepted.

For: 11 Against: 0 Abstentions: 3 (Andy Clark, Stuart Meacock, Gary Small (proxy))

Carried

- c. A request from Alex Busby-Hicks had been included with the agenda requesting that Richard Madeley be permitted to attend a Tandem Instructor course for re-evaluation. Alex had stated that Richard attended a TI course in March 2020 to convert his UPT Sigma rating to a British Skydiving TI rating, However, due to the Pandemic he did not complete any further Tandems during 20/21 due to concerns over Covid and his rating lapsed last year. Richard has a total of 2477 jumps, of which 127 are Tandems and he has completed 96 jumps in the previous 12 months.

Alex Busby Hick's had proposed that Richard Madeley be given permission to attend the TI course in April for re-evaluation.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Stacey Canning, seconded by Martin White that the above request be accepted.

Carried Unanimously

11. INSTRUCTOR COURSE 4/2021 - SKYDIVE HEADCORN

The Association wished to thank Skydive Headcorn for hosting Instructor Course 4-2021 from the 15 – 18 November 2021. The Course reported had been included with the Agenda and was for information only.

12. A.O.B

- a. Tandem Statistical Analysis

The Chair reported that following the presentation Noel Purcell had given at the Tandem Safety Day, on 28 January (the day before the AGM/Expo), Noel had provided STC with a Tandem Statistical Analysis on Tandem incident and injuries. A copy of Noel's Power Point presentation had been included in the STC Sharepoint folder.

Noel Purcell gave an overview of his findings to STC, together with a visual presentation which was comprehensive and well received. A résumé of Noel Purcell's statistical analysis would also be circulated with the Minutes for information (Appendix A).

Noel Purcell pointed out that some incident reports are not always fully completed correctly, and that this can affect the data gathering process. He asked CIs to be aware of this. He stated that some of the data had been collated from PIMS, which may not be perfect, and that the way that information is entered may also need to be looked at.

The Chair thanked Noel Purcell for his presentation and for the work involved in producing the various stats.

The COO reported that various other statistics had been included in the 2022 STC Sharepoint folder for information.

- b. The Chair reported that a request had been received from Reg Green that had been included in the STC Sharepoint folder last week requesting that Henk Post be permitted to attend an AFFI course without having to re-attend an AFFBI course.

Reg Green had stated that Henk completed his British Skydiving AFF conversion course in September 2015. Henk then returned to GoSkydive where he conducted AFF training with members of staff at the beginning of each season in the UK and in Spain. Due to the nature of GoSkydive, they did not complete any other AFF training for students at the Centre.

Reg Green had also reported that Henk had been a full time Tandem Instructor at GoSkydive for the last 7 years. He held the Dutch AFF rating for 25 years and the British Skydiving rating for 5 years. In that time, Henk had completed over 2,500 AFF descents.

Therefore, Reg Green had proposed that Henk Post be permitted to attend a British Skydiving AFF Instructor course to regain his rating, by attending the full AFF Instructor Course (not a conversion Course).

Reg Green provided the meeting with further details of his request and reported that since taking over as CI at Go Skydive, Henk had been fully involved with the AFF programme. He stated that at the beginning of this year Henk had attended a beat up in AFF training and this week he has been attending the AFFBI Course at the APA as an observer. Reg stated that his aim was for Henk to attend the AFF Course in March depending on availability.

Some concern was expressed that Henk may not be in a position to complete his AFFI Proficiency Card prior to attending the next AFFI Course. Reg confirmed that this would be completed prior to Henk attending a Course, which he hoped would be achieved at Go Skydive once they re-open.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Stacey Canning, seconded by Dylan Bartle that Henk Post be permitted to attend a full AFF Instructor Course without having to re-attend an AFFBI Course, and in addition to this that he is exempt from providing some of the information required on the AFFI Course Proficiency Card, if he cannot complete this prior to attending the Course.

For: 11 (incl 1 x proxy) Against: 1 Abstentions: 2 (Reg Green, Noel Purcell)

Carried

- c. The Chair reported that another request had been received that had been included in the STC Sharepoint folder last week, from Stacey Canning requesting a 6-month extension to the CSBI rating of Trevor Evans.

Stacey had stated that Trevor had been granted a 6-month extension to his CSBI rating following the CSI course he attended, which expires at the end of February 2022. He had been preparing to re-attend the CSI course due to be held next week, but due to compassionate reasons he could no longer attend. An extension would allow him to attend the course in May which he is already provisionally loaded onto.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Jason Webster, seconded by Reg Green that the above request be accepted.

For: 13 (incl 1 x proxy) Against: 0 Abstentions: 1 (Stacey Canning)

Carried

- d. The Chair reported that Bryn Chaffe had requested a discussion on the upper age limit of the 55-year rule for solo students.

There was no proposal put forward for a vote by CIs. It was merely a discussion to gauge the opinions of CIs present on the subject.

Following input by the Medical Adviser who provided background history, backed up by various stats as to why the decision was originally reached on the upper age limit of 55 for solo students, there appeared to be no appetite from those present for a change to the current rules.

- e. Parachute Radio Operators Certificate of Competence (ROCC) Licences

The Chair reported that for a number of years, British Skydiving and the CAA have been accepting Para ROCC applications where in some instances the written and oral examinations (Form 127a-b) have been conducted and signed for by CSIs, though the applications themselves (Form 126) are signed by approved Pilot Examiners or Advanced Instructors who hold an aviation radio licence (Para ROCC Examiner). However, the CAA will now only accept applications where all parts are signed for by the approved Para ROCC Examiner.

The Chair stated that Form 127b (exam form) which currently states that the exam may be conducted by at least a CSI will be updated.

The Chair pointed out that at this time anyone attending a CSBI or AFFBI course is required to hold a Para ROCC licence. A Para ROCC licence is required to talk to parachutists using VHF Frequency 130.530 kHz or used to talk to the aircraft using VHF frequency 129.905 kHz. However, it is not known if any PTOs still talk to students using 130.530, as most tend to use Motorola type radios. Therefore, the COO and STO would like to remove the Para ROCC licence requirement to attend the AFFBI/CSBI courses, as it is something many instructors will not need unless they are likely to talk to the aircraft as a DZ controller. However, anyone who will need to talk using either frequency will still need to obtain a Para ROCC licence.

The Chair asked for CIs thoughts on this matter, as they would like to make a proposal for the next STC meeting.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday at 19:00: 7 April 2022

The Chair stated that it is not known at this time whether the meeting will be held virtually, via Teams or at British Skydiving HQ, but CIs would be notified once a decision had been reached.

The meeting closed at 21:19 (duration 02:19)

Attached:

**Amendments to the British Skydiving Operations Manual, 10 February 2022
Appendix A – Tandem Statistical Analysis**

Distribution: Chair British Skydiving, Council, CIs, All Riggers, Advanced Packers, CAA, Editor – Skydive the Mag, File

Accepted by STC on 7 April 2022
Published on 8 April 2022

AMENDMENTS TO BRITISH SKYDIVING OPERATIONS MANUAL

At the STC meeting of 10 February 2022 the following amendments were made to the British Skydiving Operations Manual:

SECTION 2 (DESIGNATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF SKYDIVERS). Paragraph 6 (The Grading System). Sub-Para 6.3. (Formation Skydiving). Delete: 6.3.1 f.

SECTION 2 (DESIGNATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF SKYDIVERS). Paragraph 6 (The Grading System). Sub-Para 6.3. (Formation Skydiving). Replace previous sub-para 6.3.2. – 6.3.4. with new sub-para. To read:

- 6.3.2. Prior to obtaining FS1, an 'A' Licence skydiver may make 2-way jumps, when not carrying out coaching jumps, provided they have received a full safety brief and the other skydiver is at least a 'C' Licence FS1 skydiver or equivalent, approved by the CI.
- 6.3.3. Once FS1 has been obtained, the skydiver must not make FS descents with others without CI approval, (a logbook endorsement will suffice) and initially only small groups (e.g. 2-3 ways).
- 6.3.4. Training programmes other than those contained in the British Skydiving Formation Skydiving (FS) Manuals are acceptable for training for FS1, provided all the requirements of sub-para 6.3.1. (above) are met.

SECTION 2 (DESIGNATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF SKYDIVERS). Paragraph 6 (The Grading System). Sub-Para 6.6. (Freestyle/Freeflying). Delete: 6.6.1 (including a-e). New 6.6.1. to read:

- 6.6.1. To obtain Grade 1 in Freestyle/Freeflying (FF1) the skydiver must be qualified FS1.

SECTION 2 (DESIGNATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF SKYDIVERS). Paragraph 6 (The Grading System). Sub-Para 6.7. (Skysurfing). Delete: 6.7.1 (including a-i). New 6.7.1. to read:

- 6.7.1. To obtain Grade 1 in Skysurfing (SS1) the skydiver must first be a 'C' Licence holder and be qualified FS1. And demonstrate the ability to:
 - e. Maintain a 'stand up' position for 15 consecutive seconds.
 - f. Perform a controlled 360 degree turn in both directions whilst in a 'stand up' position.
 - g. Perform a straight body position forward and backward loop starting and returning back to a 'stand up' position.
 - h. Return back to a stable (belly to earth) position within 3-5 seconds from a fast side or back spin of at least 2 revolutions per second.

SECTION 2 (DESIGNATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF SKYDIVERS). Paragraph 6 (The Grading System). Sub-Para 6.9. (Tracking). Delete: 6.9.1 (including a-e). New 6.9.1. to read:

- 6.9.1. To obtain Grade 1 in Tracking (TR1) the skydiver must be qualified FS1.

SECTION 6 (EQUIPMENT), Paragraph 8 (Parachute Packing), Sub-para 8.3.1. Change to read:

- 8.3.1. Reserve parachutes may only be inspected and packed by current Advanced Packers (AP).

SECTION 14 (RIGGING), Add new Paragraph 9 (Non-British Skydiving Riggers and Reserve Packers) To read:

9. NON-BRITISH SKYDIVING RIGGERS AND RESERVE PACKERS

Non-British Skydiving rated Reserve Packers or Riggers wishing to practice in the UK must be full members of British Skydiving, understand English adequately, hold a British Skydiving Packing Certificate and have a written recommendation from a British Skydiving qualified Rigger prior to assessment on the appropriate course.

- 9.1. To gain a British Skydiving Advanced Packer (AP) rating the candidate must hold a current Reserve Packing rating acceptable to the skydiving governing organisation of the country where the rating was obtained and show evidence of at least 20 reserve repacks, before attending an AP examination course, during which the Advanced Rigger (AR) or Rigger Examiner (RE) conducting the course will ensure that all aspects of the AP syllabus are covered.
- 9.2. To gain a British Skydiving Rigger rating the candidate must hold a current Rigger rating acceptable to the skydiving governing organisation of the country where the rating was obtained and show evidence of at least 200 hours of logged rigging work. They must first obtain suitable British Skydiving AP ratings prior to attending a British Skydiving Rigger Examination Course, during which their ability to fulfil the syllabus will be assessed by the REs.
- 9.3. Following successful completion of the above the candidate will be awarded the relevant British Skydiving rating.

Note: *Previous Paragraph 9 becomes new Paragraph 10.*